

Department of State

TELEGRAM

~~SECRET~~

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PHNOM 067616 ~~051325Z~~

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

43

ACTION SS-25

REVIEWED BY Zubley DATE 10/9/80

PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

INFO OCT-01 /026 W

010755

R 051137Z OCT 72
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8815
INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON
CINCPAC
COMUSMACV

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 67660-0

EXDIS

SUBJ: NEW KHMER GOVERNMENT

1. WHAT LITTLE CHANCE THERE IS THAT LON NOL AND SIRIK MATAK MIGHT COME TO TERMS ON THE FORMATION OF A NEW GOVERNMENT DIMINISHED FURTHER TODAY AS THE GOVERNMENT CLOSED DOWN MATAK'S NEWSPAPER "THE REPUBLICAN PARTY".
2. OFFENDING ARTICLES IN ISSUES OF MID-SEPTEMBER WERE CITED, BUT THE GOVERNMENT'S REAL TARGET WAS AN OCTOBER 3 EDITORIAL ARGUING THAT THE GKR HAS VIOLATED THE UN CHARTER AND THUS CANNOT EXPECT TO KEEP ITS UN SEAT.
3. WE ARE UNCLEAR AS TO THE AUTHORSHIP OF THE ARTICLE. THE IRRESPONSIBLE AND OFTEN VIOLENT SINO-KHMER MAGNATE TRINH HOANH, WHO JUST RETURNED FROM JAPAN, IS A LIKELY CHOICE. WHATEVER THE AUTHORSHIP, THE ARTICLE GAVE THE SOCIO-REPUBLICANS A NEW OPENING TO STRIKE AT SIRIK MATAK.

Phnom Penh 67164
10-5-72

B1, E B
B1
- E

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

03:28:07.050



DECLASSIFIED

Department of State

TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PHNOM 06766 051325Z

4. ON OTHER ASPECTS OF THE POLITICAL EQUATION, LON NOL REPORTED AND HANG THUN HAK CONFIRMED THAT THE DEMOCRAT PARTY WOULD NOT JOIN THE GOVERNMENT, BUT HAD AGREED NOT TO ATTACK IT "UNNECESSARILY"; THAT IN TAM WOULD BE GIVEN A "FITTING" CHARGE, APPARENTLY A MILITARY REGION OR PROVINCIAL GOVERNORSHIP, THAT THE PRACHEACHON PARTY WOULD BE BROUGHT INTO THE GOVERNMENT; AND THAT THE WOMEN'S PARTY WOULD AMALGAMATE WITH THE SOCIO-REPUBLICANS. ON TIMING, LON NOL SAYS THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT CHANGE UNTIL OCTOBER 9 OR THEREAFTER. LON NOL HAS RECALLED MINISTER OF STATE MAU SAY, FROM THE UN DEL. ATION, BUT HE GAVE NO INDICATION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT HE INTENDS TO OFFER HIM THE PRIME MINISTERSHIP, AS BRUIED IN THE LOCAL PRESS.

5. COMMENT: WITH SIRIK MATAK AND OTHER POLITICIANS DECLINING TO PRESS THEIR DESIRES OR CLAIMS ON LON NOL, OR EVEN TO SEEK HIM OUT, IT IS NATURAL THAT THE IMPORTUNITIES OF THE SOCIO-REPUBLICANS SHOULD CLAIM A LARGER AND LARGER PORTION OF HIS ATTENTION. THIS "ENTOURAGE EFFECT" IN TURN WORKS TO ALIENATE THE REPUBLICANS AND MATAK STILL FURTHER.

6. A BASIC PROBLEM FOR LON NOL IS THAT THESE BUSY SOCIO-REPUBLICAN SUPPORTERS REPRESENT LITTLE BEYOND THEMSELVES; IN PARTICULAR THEY APPEAR TO HAVE ALMOST NO FOLLOWING IN THE ARMY.

7. THUS THE FORTHCOMING TRANSFORMATION OF THE GOVERNMENT AS IT NOW SHAPES UP LOOKS UNLIKELY SIGNIFICANTLY TO SHORE UP LON NOL'S STRENGTH OR ABILITY TO GOVERN.

8. CHARGE ONCE AGAIN EXPRESSED TO BOTH HANG THUN HAK AND LON NOL OUR HOPE FOR THE UNION OF ALL KHMER AROUND THEIR PRESIDENT. GDS DEC 31, 1978.
ENDEPS

CONFIDENTIAL

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY